

# Chukchi director candidates named

Two men reared in Northwest Alaska and a former rural education coordinator are finalists for the position of director of the soon-to-be-reopened Chukchi Community College in Kotzebue.

Candidates are Samuel R. Towarak, who was born and reared in Kotzebue, Fred Bigjim, who was born in Wales, and Nina Sinkey, whose hus-

band is the senior magistrate in Kotzebue.

Towarak is a research associate with the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. He received his masters of education degree in School Administration from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. He received his bachelor's degree in English at UAF and in the past has served as coordinator

of cross cultural study program for UAF.

Towarak taught high school in Kotzebue and Noorvik before taking the UAF job.

He is married to the former Nita Sheldon of Noorvik. She has a bachelor's degree in Inupiat and just completed her master's degree in teaching. They have two children, Elaine, 6 and Sam Jr., 3.

Fred Bigjim is director of Cross Cultural Studies at Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka.

He also teaches courses in anthropology, geography, political science and education. He received his masters degree in education from Harvard University.

Bigjim has attended Sheldon Jackson, the University of Alaska, Suffex law school and Harvard.

He is married and has two children.

He has written two books, one published by Alaska Methodist University Press called "Letters to Howard," a compilation of letters that he wrote for Tundra Times founder Howard Rock in the days preceding and just after the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and "Sinrock," a book about his young years. (See related story, Page 5)

Sinkey recently resigned from her position as coordinator for the University of Alaska Rural Education Correspondence program, a position she held for two years.

She holds a masters of education in Student Personnel Administration from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

She received a bachelors degree in English and coordinated a course study program for UA.

She is a former tug boat operator in Southeast Alaska. Her husband is senior magistrate in Kotzebue.

Whoever is chosen will guide the re-opening of Chukchi, which has been closed for the past year in a dispute between local leaders and the University system.

The Alaska Legislature recently allocated \$935,000 to the school to handle the expenses of re-opening.

The school is being operated under a joint agreement called Cooperative Operational Plan for Education which was reached by the University Board of Regents and the State Board of Regents and the Postsecondary Commission.

COPE seeks to improve education in rural areas by eliminating overlapping of responsibilities.

The college will be a two-year program using telecommunications in the Learn/Alaska Network programs.

The college will also begin a pilot "outreach" program to provide telecommunication college classes in Noorvik and Noatak.

The new director will hopefully be chosen by mid-August.